

Bomb explodes in Rome's centre

ROME, April 7 (R). — A powerful bomb shattered the private office of an Italian cabinet minister today as political tension rose over the kidnapping of a leading politician's son. The bomb, left outside the office of Interior Minister Francesco Cossiga, did not cause any injuries but blew out dozens of windows in the centre of the capital. Police had no immediate word on those responsible, but one anonymous phone call said the extremist armed Proletarian Nuclei (NAP) urban guerrilla group placed the bomb. A number of similar phone calls to newspaper offices around the country have also claimed the NAP was responsible for the kidnapping in Naples on Tuesday night of 34-year-old Mr. Guido de Martino, son of a former Socialist Party leader.

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جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية « الراي »

Libya executes 5 for sabotage

TRIPOLI, April 7 (R). — Five people, one of them an Egyptian, were publicly executed in Benghazi today for "terrorist sabotage" in Benghazi Port and city, Libya's Arab Revolutionary News Agency (ARNA) reported. The agency said the five men had been found guilty of burning a church and of sabotage against the port and a statue of the late President Nasser of Egypt. It said their actions had "hurt scores of innocent citizens and almost caused the loss of the lives of hundreds more." ARNA gave no further details of the incidents, but mentioned President Sadat of Egypt, apparently alleging that he was behind them. Egypt and Libya have in recent months accused each other of sabotage and terrorist attacks on several occasions.

Precious little seen achieved by Sadat's visit to Washington

WASHINGTON, April 7 (R). — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat left Washington last night without getting either immediately or in the long term an American agreement for an arms deal or a U.S. commitment to his proposals for a Palestinian state.

Both issues were left wide open after the two days of talks held here with President Carter as part of a White House study of the best way to proceed towards an Arab-Israeli settlement.

U.S. officials were unable to predict how Mr. Carter would respond to Mr. Sadat's request for American F-5s and F-16 fighter aircraft and other weapons, but they suggested that arms agreement would run into difficulty in the mostly U.S.-Israel Congress.

Mr. Sadat apparently argued that he needed military superiority because of a "communist threat to all Africa."

He voiced deep concern to porters about Cuba's intervention in Angola last year and that he felt was a serious challenge from Cuba and the Soviet Union on the African continent.

The two presidents exchanged views on obstacles to peace in the Middle East including the Palestinian question which Mr. Sadat said was the crux of the problem.

Observers had not expected Mr. Carter to accept the Egyptian leader's proposal, opposed Israel, for a Palestinian state.

te on the occupied West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Carter thought the problem had to be negotiated by Israel and the Arabs "free from duress from the United States," U.S. officials said.

The Carter administration believes the prospects are good for reconvening the Middle East peace conference later this year and is "gathering views" from the region so it can again act as a mediator if asked by both sides.

President Sadat left Washington for Stuttgart, West Germany, and plans to stay privately for several days in the Black Forest, near Baden-Baden, before flying home to Cairo.

In a New York television interview last night, President Sadat said that Egypt would not oppose a defence pact between the United States and Israel if it would help to end the state of belligerency between Egypt and Israel.

"Let us end the state of belligerency. Let Israel have whatever guarantees she asks for from whatever body she agrees to... even to the extent of a defence pact with the United States. We shall not oppose this," he told ABC News.

Asked what the next step towards a permanent Middle East peace should be, Mr. Sadat said: "A task force... headed by Secretary (of State Cyrus) Vance can contact all the parties concerned... to make essential preparations for the Geneva conference."



SADAT'S PIPE -- Egyptian President Anwar Sadat meets with reporters in Washington, Wednesday, following two days of talks with U.S. President Jimmy Carter and other government officials. (AP wirephoto).

Rabin may have to resign over bank account scandal

TEL AVIV, April 7 (Agencies). — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was reportedly considering today whether he should resign following recent accusations that his wife had broken Israeli law by keeping a bank account in Washington.

The daily Maariv said that there were not one but two Rabin bank accounts -- one each for both husband and wife -- in the U.S. capital where Mr. Rabin was Israeli ambassador from 1968 to 1973.

When Mr. Rabin left his Washington post, total deposits amounted to \$20,000. There still remained \$10,000 instead of the \$2,000 which was claimed by Mrs. Rabin. The newspaper alleged.

According to Maariv, the economic division of the Israeli police has recommended that a fine of 150,000 Israeli pounds (about \$100,000) would be a suitable penalty for the offence. Circles close to the prime minister denied today that he was considering resigning and removing his name from Labour Party lists at the upcoming elections. His final decision may, however, rest on whether the judiciary considers that a fine is insufficient to atone for the offence.

Moroccan troops to fight in Zaire

NASHA, April 7 (AFP). — King Hassan of Morocco has decided to send troops to Zaire to help President Mobutu Sese Seko's regime beat back a reported invasion of its copper-rich Shaba (previously Katanga) Province by Katangese rebels, an official Zairese spokesman announced here today.

The spokesman said that an advance party of the Moroccan contingent would arrive on the Shaba front tomorrow while other troops "from other (unidentified African countries) will follow."

King Hassan reportedly had a 12-minute telephone conversation with President Mobutu. But the spokesman did not give details of its content.

Official sources in Rabat later confirmed that Morocco was sending a military contingent to Zaire. As King Hassan was today in Marrakesh, an official announcement was expected later.

Zairese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Nguzu Karl Bond visited Rabat on a special mission two weeks ago.

and had long talks with King Hassan.

Morocco has, in the past, frequently responded to appeals for military aid from other states. Its first intervention in Zaire was 15 years ago when Morocco sent a contingent to aid the United Nations force in Katanga itself.

In a separate development, an official Zairese spokesman announced today that China has decided to grant Zaire "special assistance" which will begin to arrive here shortly by air.

The spokesman gave no details of the nature of this assistance other than saying that 30 tons of equipment would soon arrive here by air while "the rest will follow by sea." A ship "has already left China for Zaire," he added.

Muzorewa calls for Rhodesian referendum

LONDON, April 7 (AFP). — African nationalist leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa today called on Britain to organise a referendum in Rhodesia to elect a national leader to whom Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith could go over power.

He told a press conference that the elected leader should also form an interim government before a constitutional conference was held.

Bishop Muzorewa, leader of a United African National Council, had talks earlier today with British Foreign Secretary David Owen and submitted a 10-point master plan for settling the Rhodesian problem. Owen had promised to study it.

But Whitehall sources said the talks that Britain did not favour a referendum under present circumstances. It felt that a referendum organised by her with or under the Smith regime would not lead to the peace of settlement envisaged by him.

Carter announces programme designed to cut down risks of nuclear proliferation

WASHINGTON, April 7 (AFP). — President Jimmy Carter today announced a programme aimed at cutting down the risks of nuclear proliferation in the United States and abroad by limiting the recycling of plutonium in U.S. nuclear power stations.

The main points of the Carter programme were:

- 1) Indefinite postponement of the re-utilisation and recycling of plutonium produced in the U.S. The federal credits earmarked for the recycling plant in

Bonwell, South Carolina, will be suppressed.

- 2) Restructuring of the U.S. programme of fast-breeder reactors and priority for other methods of producing nuclear energy that do not allow the use of nuclear fuel for military needs.

- 3) Increase of the American potential of enriched uranium production, to supply nuclear fuel needs in the U.S. and abroad.

- 4) Preparation of legislation enabling the U.S. to supply other countries with nuclear fuel other than plutonium.

- 5) Maintenance of the U.S. embargo on exporting nuclear equipment and technology that could be used for military ends.

- 6) Continuation of discussions with various foreign countries centred particularly on the problem of production and stockpiling of nuclear fuel and on the establishment of an international research programme new methods of nuclear energy production.

Answering press conference questions, Mr. Carter said he had detailed discussions on these questions with Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, and British Prime Minister James Callaghan.

The talks dealt in particular with seeking a joint position for the big industrialised nations vis-a-vis small nations trying to produce nuclear energy.



MUZOREWA IN LONDON -- British Foreign Secretary David Owen (left) greets Rhodesian nationalist leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa on his arrival at London's Foreign Office for talks Thursday. (AP wirephoto).

India to probe "excesses" during Gandhi's emergency

NEW DELHI, April 7 (R). — The Indian government announced today that a commission of inquiry headed by a judge would investigate alleged excesses and abuses during the 21-month emergency imposed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in June 1975.

Mr. Charan Singh, Home Minister in the newly-elected Janata (people's) Party government, said: "We are not acting in a spirit of revenge or in anger but only redeeming our pledge to the people and fulfilling their mandate."

The Janata Party and its electoral allies defeated Mrs. Gandhi's Congress Party in last month's general election. The emergency and its alleged excesses were the main election issues.

Mr. Charan Singh said alleged abuses include what he said were atrocities committed on political detainees, force and compulsion in the family-planning programme and illegal demolition of homes -- an apparent reference to urban redevelopment projects.

The home minister said in the Lok Sabha (lower house) that he was aware many officials acted out of fear. The government had no intention of being vindictive "nor would we allow any kind of witch-hunt," he said.

But the government was determined to ensure that the events of the emergency were not repeated "and to expose the abuse of power by a handful of people who had unleashed untold repression and terror on the nation."

He expected the commission to give its findings within six months.

The government last week promised an investigation into the business interests of Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, younger son of the ousted prime minister, and into the affairs of his close associate, former Defence Minister Bansi Lal.

Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, who rose to power and influence during the emergency, was closely identified with programmes of mass sterilisation and slum demolitions.

Margaret Thatcher slams USSR in China

PEKING, April 7 (AFP). — The countries of Western Europe must "impress on Soviet leaders our determination to protect our freedom," British Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher declared here tonight.

Mrs. Thatcher, who arrived in Peking today on an official visit, was speaking at a banquet given in her honour by First Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien.

She had an hour-long talk with Mr. Li this afternoon, and also met Foreign Minister Huang Hua for two hours. Mrs. Thatcher is a guest of the Chinese government.

An informed source said the subjects raised during today's talks were the same as those

brought up in the speeches made by Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Li -- essentially, the problems caused by the balance of power between the Soviet Union and its allies on the one hand, and West Europe and the United States on the other.

The Chinese vice premier stressed in his speech that "the factors for war are on the increase." He added, "the people want peace. But if aggressors insist on fighting a war you have no alternative but to prepare for war."

Mrs. Thatcher said her own analysis of the world situation was in many ways similar to that of China.

She accentuated the need for the Atlantic alliance "to maintain a powerful collective defence for the foreseeable future"

Left takes strategic south Lebanese town

BEIRUT, April 7 (R). — Fierce fighting was reported from two fronts in southern Lebanon today after forces of the leftist-Palestinian alliance stormed a major stronghold near the Israeli border.

Travellers from the area and Palestinian spokesmen here said that Palestinian commandos and their leftist allies had taken the border town of Khyam at dawn today after ferocious hand-to-hand combat and artillery bombardments which began last night.

Observers in Beirut speculated that the capture of Khyam was part of a leftist-Palestinian offensive of such a scale that it could not have been launched without the tacit agreement of Syria and other Arab governments.

"Khyam has fallen... as the result of an attack launched in accordance with a set plan to clear all positions in the south from isolationist (right-wing) forces and Israelis," a statement by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said.

Just how closely the right and the Israelis cooperate was underlined yesterday by reports from the Israeli border town of Metulla which said that battle-weary rightists had carried their wounded into Israel for medical treatment there.

The town is a strategic point in a triangle of rightist strongholds formed by Khyam, Qleia to the west and Marjeyoun to the north. None of the three towns is more than 8 kms. from the Israeli border.

Travellers from the area said that after the fall of Khyam, fighting spread to the Marjeyoun area and flared with renewed ferocity in the region of Bint Jbeil, some 30 kms. south.

The area had been relatively quiet over the past few days. Leftist-Palestinian artillery "is pounding Marjeyoun with rockets and artillery, scoring direct hits on isolationist positions and setting them ablaze..." the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported. WAFA's accounts have been largely accurate throughout the civil war.

Travellers said that Israeli combat aircraft shrieked low over the Marjeyoun-Qleia-Khyam triangle as the commandos consolidated their positions in Khyam.

Residents of the Bint Jbeil area reported that 12 Israeli military vehicles roared into the isolated village of Quzeil as leftist-Palestinian forces increased pressure on Ain Bil and Rmeish -- rightist strongholds near Bint Jbeil.

The type of the Israeli vehicles was not immediately known. Quzeil, of little strategic importance, is about 4 kms. north of a main east-west road from the coastal village of Naqoura to Bint Jbeil.

Travellers from the south said that the village of Aitroun, on the eastern approaches of Bint Jbeil, had come under severe artillery and mortar fire from rightist and Israeli positions. At one time earlier today, shells were reported crashing into the area at the rate of 20 per minute.

Today's fighting sent more of the remaining civilians in the Bint Jbeil region fleeing for the safety of the southern Port of Tyre, still firmly controlled by the leftist-Palestinian alliance.

Trucks and cars, piled high with bedsteads and personal belongings, rumbled down the snaking mountain road to Tyre. Meanwhile, the political dispute continued over how to

end the bloodshed in southern Lebanon -- an area which enjoyed a measure of peace through much of the 19-month civil war.

The "Lebanese Front" of rightwing parties today published details of a memorandum to Arab kings and heads of state calling for the implementation "by force" of the 1969 Cairo agreement which regulated the presence of Palestinian commandos in Lebanon.

The rightist interpretation of the agreement would emasculate the commandos in southern Lebanon, where the accord allowed them to establish military bases.

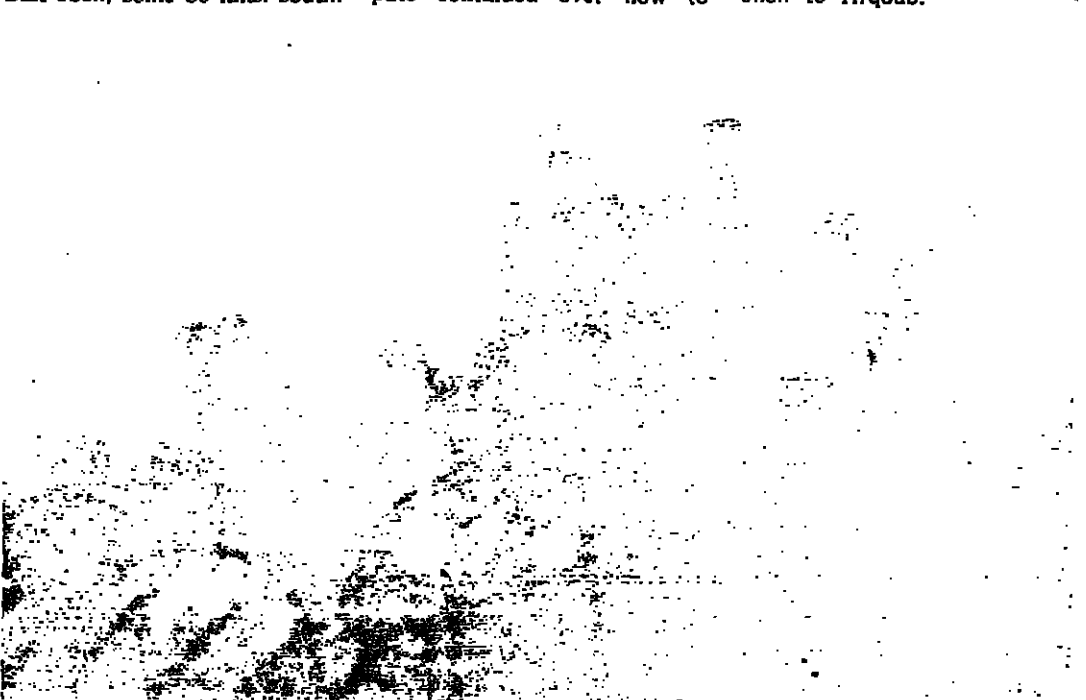
This interpretation is being challenged by the Palestinians as well as a number of Arab states, understood to include Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. They feel the accord needs no interpretation.

Attempts to rebuild the badly splintered Lebanese armed forces and send a Lebanese force into the south to separate the combatants have so far failed.

In a later development, Agence France Press (AFP) reported tonight that fierce street-fighting was underway between the rightists and leftist-Palestinian forces in the town of Marjeyoun, the key position held by the rightists as it protects their headquarters at Qleia only 5 kms. away.

Well-informed sources in Beirut said, according to AFP, that the 15,000 inhabitants of the town had mostly fled leaving the combatants to fight it out.

The transfer of Marjeyoun to leftist hands would give them control of most of the main roads in the central area of south Lebanon from Bint Jbeil to Arqoub.



PHALANGISTS OFF TO BATTLE -- Dust rises as Lebanese rightwing Phalangist militiamen sit atop an APC and a Sherman tank while riding west along the Israeli border to help their embattled forces in south Lebanon. (AP wirephoto).

Brezhnev tells Arafat USSR wants PLO to participate in Geneva talks

MOSCOW, April 7 (Agencies). — Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev said today the Soviet Union is "determined" in favour of the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in a reconvened Geneva conference on the Middle East, Tass news agency reported.

Mr. Brezhnev made the remark in a meeting with PLO's Chairman Yasser Arafat who arrived here on Monday for talks with Soviet officials.

The meeting was apparently designed to assure that the Soviet Union's latest Middle East proposals will not ignore the interests of the Palestinians.

Mr. Brezhnev assured Mr. Arafat, who is Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), that the Soviet Union "always supported and supports the Palestinian Arab people and other peoples of the Middle East fighting for freedom."

The Soviet leader, reported by Tass, confirmed that the national rights of the Palestinians were an "inseparable part" of an overall Middle East settlement.

In an interview shown on the main evening television news programme, the Palestinian leader expressed satisfaction with the talks, which he described as an "historical meeting, which will undoubtedly serve as an important stimulus

for the Palestinian liberation movement."

Before Mr. Arafat set off for Moscow Palestinian sources in Damascus said he was seeking clarification of a Middle East peace plan which Mr. Brezhnev outlined last month.

The Soviet leader's proposals, made in a speech on March 21, included stage-by-stage Israeli withdrawals from occupied Arab territories and demilitarised zones along future borders.

He also called for a peace treaty guaranteeing the Palestinians' rights to create their own state.

Mr. Arafat was assured by Mr. Gromyko during talks yesterday of Moscow's continued support for the Palestinians.

The foreign minister also told him the Kremlin wanted a comprehensive Middle East settlement -- an apparent reference to Mr. Brezhnev's peace proposals.

Informed sources here said Mr. Arafat had a meeting with Dr. Fidel Castro, Cuba's leader, who is also visiting Moscow. No details of their talks were disclosed.

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The real risks

The American Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Andrew Young, addressed a group of leading American Jews last week and told them that nobody could dictate to Israel what terms it must have for peace with the Arab states or what terms it is to live on. He said such terms "require great risk", and that American policy is not to impose a solution but rather to encourage flexibility in Middle East negotiations. Mr. Young was addressing a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organisations, and he really had little choice about what to tell the assembled Jewish-American leaders. We're disappointed that he had to talk nonsense to them, however, but then it is part of the job of the American ambassador to the United Nations to come out with some heavy nonsense every once in a while.

We are particularly perplexed by the fact that a man who seems to understand the situation in Southern Africa so well can be so confused about the analogous situation in the Middle East. For a man who casually and rightly uses terms like "armed struggle" within the context of bringing justice to black Africans, Mr. Young talks about the Middle East with a surprising lack of understanding. Perhaps he should not talk about the Middle East until he has a chance to visit the area, like he visited Southern Africa?

For it is lack of understanding of the first degree for Mr. Young to talk about the "great risk" that Israel faces in making peace with the Arabs. The only "risk" Israel faces is the same sort of risk that Americans faced as they withdrew from Vietnam -- the risk of not being pardoned by the people they saw fit to kill. It is the same sort of risk that Mr. Smith runs in Rhodesia, and that Mr. Vorster shall someday run in South Africa. It is the risk of killers who have to learn to sheath their swords, and the risk of people who have worked themselves up into a nearly psychopathic addiction to the power of bullets trying to put away their guns.

The real risks that Israel faces are the products of its own deeds. Can Israel maintain itself as a Jewish state that lives in peace with its neighbours after it has fought its neighbours for so many years? Is there national cohesion within Israel for anything more noble than its armed forces? Will the United States keep coming up with more than \$2 billion of aid for Israel every year when the threat of war with the Arabs is no longer there? Can the American ambassador to the United Nations always be counted upon by the Israelis to say stupid and meaningless things to leading American Jews?

Yes, there are many risks that Israel faces, but they are not the ones that Mr. Young is thinking of.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

One Jordanian daily commented in its Thursday editorial on the necessity for Arabs to achieve greater solidarity in order to enable them to influence peace efforts, discussed by the Chief of the Royal Cabinet, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf Tuesday, while two other dailies commented on the social security scheme His Majesty has requested.

AL RA'I, discussing Arab solidarity said that no doubt confrontation states at present have as a main objective the search for a kind of union with Syria. Their relations with other Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt are strong as are Jordan's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation characterised by their frankness and cordiality.

However, the paper added, the strength of the Arab position depends not only on the good relations confrontation states have with one another but also on the relations with the whole of the Arab nation, as the battle with the enemy is an Arab one.

Zionism is trying to impose itself, as a rising nationalist movement, in the homeland and at the expense of another, the paper said. Therefore, the responsibility of opposing such a movement should be an Arab one with every Arab country considering itself a confrontation state, mobilising its economic, political and military potentials to form a strong Arab stand capable of imposing its will during peace talks.

In reply to the Israeli intransigence, its de facto policies and its efforts to hinder peace, the Arabs should work for a unified stand in which all should contribute and demonstrate

to Israel and the world that de facto policies, accepted by the international community sometimes out of fear of this threat to world peace, can be changed and others take their place, the paper said. The Arabs should be able to convince the world that they are capable of changing the de facto situation if peace means are closed to them.

AL DUSTOUR, said that His Majesty's request for the establishment of a social security scheme results from his faith in the Jordanian citizen. Its implementation, the paper added, will help to attain a uniform and balanced society. It will also encourage productivity, the paper said, as the citizen becomes confident in his future and will preserve labour and attract it from working out of Jordan. By this move, His Majesty has laid a solid basis for the social and economic development process and has increased solidarity between the citizens of this country.

AL SHA'B, commenting on the same subject said His Majesty's request shows his constant vigil over the Jordanian march towards progress and development, and his desire to achieve a homogeneous society in which every citizen can enjoy the fruits of prosperity.

To meet with the fast development in all fields, His Majesty has judged it timely that the necessary legislation be enacted to ensure the worker an honourable living and prepare for a suitable working atmosphere to help the increase in productivity.

This step is necessary, the paper concluded, to organise more efficiently our national economy to follow its rapid expansion.

Vance's unsuccessful mission to Moscow stirs up fierce reactions

WASHINGTON, April 7 (AFP). — The Soviet rejection of the two American options to limit and reduce the two superpowers' arsenals of strategic weapons has sparked off fierce argument between President Jimmy Carter's supporters and critics.

They confront each other on the mass media and nightly at the political salons of Washington where the hostesses stir up the controversy with glee.

For some the Vance mission to Moscow -- his first as secretary of state -- ended in an American "retreat from Russia." It was, they say, a veritable rout resulting from a false appreciation of Soviet policy.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, director of the National Security Council, and Paul Warnke, new American Delegation Chief at the Salt Negotiations, are both accused of lack of seriousness.

For others President Carter, by carrying out open diplomacy, has uselessly shocked the Russians who for eight years have been used to the equally secret methods of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger.

The most reasonable critics of President Carter take him to task for having given Mr. Brezhnev a sort of ultimatum by stating publicly that if the Soviet Union shows insincerity in the talks that are due to resume in May, America will have no choice but to deploy new weapons.

Is May going to be the last chance to avoid a return to the cold war?

For some liberals Mr. Carter is now a prisoner of the right. The same liberals who for two years called for the de-

parture of Mr. Kissinger, guilty in their eyes of sinister machinations and serious diplomatic failures (in which they were in agreement with Republican Ronald Reagan), have come to miss the former secretary of state and his secret diplomacy.

Finally, there are those who believe that Mr. Carter, by defending human rights in an active manner, for example by receiving Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky at the White House, has profoundly upset the Politburo.

It is a fact that staunchly conservative columnists approve of the hard line taken by President Carter, which is not without its funny side when one thinks that they have criticised him for his liberalism for the past 18 months.

That is what his detractors believe. Those who defend him outside the administration are many and of high quality.

Firstly there are the leaders of the large newspapers: the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, the Miami Herald, for example -- then radio and television commentators, the high name columnists such as James Reston and sensible politicians.

President Carter's supporters point out that for the first time in the eight-year negotiations between Washington and Moscow the United States has proposed not only a limitation but also a reduction in the number of strategic missiles and launchers.

They added that the Politburo was informed in advance of the general nature of the American proposals through the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

They believe that the White House did not miscalculate but that the Kremlin wanted to see the reactions of the new U.S. president, to put him to the test as they do every new president.

How otherwise can the pure and simple rejection of the first option, the application of the protocol signed by Ford and Brezhnev in Vladivostok in 1974, be explained, they asked.

It was fully understood in Washington that the major cuts in the arsenals of the superpowers proposed by the Americans could not be accepted in three days. But they were worth considering.

Yet the door has not been slammed. The dialogue can resume in May in a constructive manner.

It is privately admitted in circles close to Mr. Vance that the Moscow negotiations could have been carried out more discreetly.

But the present storm of axe use has had the effect of revealing a Carter that only those who followed him during the presidential campaign had discovered.

This man, who keeps himself self fully briefed, is a man of steel. For the moment he has the support of public opinion. According to his friends, he remains deeply convinced of the need to reduce seriously the stocks of rockets and strategic missiles held by the two great powers.

He never stopped saying so during the election campaign, and has continued in the past few days.

But he will not be swindled and for him Vladivostok was a swindle.

Spaniards become alarmed by extreme left-right violence

Is extreme violence a fact of life to be continually accepted in Spain? As the country approaches its elections in three months the majority of Spaniards are becoming alarmed at the heightening terrorist activity both from the left and the right.

MADRID (Gemin). — With elections now less than 3-months off in Spain, there are growing fears that the dramatic escalation of terrorist activity will interfere seriously with plans to institute democracy.

Violence from both left and right has been known in Spain for many years. In Franco's time Spain became a haven for ultra right-wingers from all over the world. Cuban exiles, triple-A terrorists from Argentina, Italian neo-nazis, the hated secret police of Salazar's Portugal -- these and many more made their home here, attracted by the stern ideological climate of unbending authoritarianism.

In general, they did not come to retire, but to practice their cult of violence on ideological opponents. That was clearly demonstrated last spring, when an annual left-wing rally at Montejurra, in northern Spain, was attacked by a gang of ultra-rightists, many of them foreigners, causing several deaths.

Most of the suspects rounded up after January's violence were in fact not Spaniards, and eight Italians are now awaiting trial in Madrid.

But the Spanish ultras do not need to rely on outsiders to do their dirty work. Opposition circles in Madrid have long suffered from the activities of a particularly nasty squad of right-wing thugs who call themselves the Guerrillas of Christ the King.

Now another group has appeared, the Apostolic Antifascist Alliance. So far they have claimed responsibility for the death of a demonstrator and have threatened to kill Suarez. They have also promised more violence in the run up to the elections. Meanwhile, a new organisation called the sixth Adolf Hitler Command is making a name for itself in the Basque region with acts of assault and destruction.

The uneven attention paid to extremist groups by the authorities has always been a feature of Spanish politics. Left-wing agitators like the Basque "Euzkadi" are heavily suppressed, while equally violent ultra-rightists are officially ignored.

For Spaniards this is no mystery. "They were an essential part of the old regime," says a student, himself a victim of beating by the Guerrillas of Christ the King. "Some of them are just off-duty policemen and others are informers. After all, they do police work in fighting left-wing opposition. How they do it is their own affair. There is never any question of the police looking the other way -- they actually encourage it."

But with the present move towards democratic rule the cooperation of the police is essential. Its convenience -- collectively or at an individual level -- in right wing violence cannot be proved. But nothing emphasised the possibility so clearly as the extraordinary affair of the "Antifascist Revolutionary Group of the First of October" -- known to the

world through ten weeks of suspense and drama as Grapo.

This apparently left-wing organisation entirely new to most Spaniards when it burst on to the scene with a carefully planned and executed kidnapping of a senior government official and loyal Francoist, Antonio Maria Oriol y Urquijo.

The official police description of it as the armed wing of a schism of a little known revolutionary communist party claimed in with Grapo's own claims and their demands that the government release 15 political prisoners.

But the consistent failure of the police to find their hide-out began to raise suspicions. The expertise showed in the kidnapping, the ease with which they were able to maintain a Madrid journalist -- even by running correspondence with telephone -- and their ability to carry out a second kidnapping as spectacular as the first, this time of a rightist military figure, General Emilio Villasana, all these things suggested experience and resources not usually associated with left-wing activists operating in hostile territory.

Nor were their actions likely to further the cause for which they claimed to be fighting. A new amnesty for political prisoners had been on the cards, but became impossible as soon as it would be made to seem

like bowing to terrorist pressure.

So who were Grapo? Were they what they claimed? Or were they really a right-wing group trying to discredit the communists and destabilise the situation? Were the police themselves involved? Could it be the work of foreign intelligence agencies, as the government was said to believe?

The eventual rescue of the hostages has done little to clear up the matter. The whole operation was, unaccountably, shrouded in secrecy and if anything the confusion is now worse.

For, as the police and the hostages told their story, reporters sensed that something was being kept back. Certain details of Sr. Oriol's experience did not tally with that of his fellow victim, General Villasana. At times he and his rescuers seemed to contradict themselves or suddenly falter, occasionally after being audibly corrected by other policemen.

The Spanish press has emphasised these curious aspects and continues to believe that a sinister attempt to provoke an army take-over has still not been fully checked.

The majority of Spaniards are alarmed at the possibility and determined that it shall not happen. But whether the government has the power to isolate both extremes from the political and social establishment which Franco moulded, and engage its resources in a single-minded campaign against terrorist violence wherever it comes from -- this is the question on which Spain's future as a democracy now hangs.

Cuban diplomacy works to harmonise anti-imperialist forces in Africa

HAVANA, April 7 (AFP). — The Cuban president is now in Moscow after visiting eight African countries.

Many observers saw his shuttle through Africa as climaxing the revolutionary effort Cuba launched in the continent the day its first troops went ashore in Luanda, Angola, in November 1975. It has also had the effect of rallying countries of the socialist camp.

What made Mr. Castro's political daring all the more striking was that his dash through Africa coincided with the opening of the first official talks between Havana and Washington since their cold war began 16 years ago.

In addition, a single false move by Cuban diplomacy would inevitably involve the entire socialist bloc of nations. It would also be disastrous for Cuba itself to suffer a diplomatic reverse at a stage when the energies of its people are being poured into resolving economic problems and establishing the institutions of a revolutionary state.

It would have been a severe political setback for Cuba's leadership if its Angolan expeditionary force had been beaten in December 1976, as very nearly happened, just at the time when the Cuban Communist Party was preparing for its first congress.

Taking such risks into account, observers here ruled out the likelihood that Cuba would try any new military moves in Africa for the time being.

Mr. Castro has in particular hotly denied any Cuban involvement in Zaïre. In a speech in Luanda on March 27, he stated "categorically" that Cuba was not a single Cuban officer or soldier with the Katangan mercenaries invading southern Zaïre and denied that Cuba had any part in arming or training the invaders.

In the same speech, the Cuban leader affirmed: "We follow internationalist principles and we maintain a moral and worthy attitude." The affirmation was seen as an answer to those who were asking all over the continent "what is Castro up to in Africa?" and "whose interests is he serving?"

It was the first time in Africa that Cuba's policy aims had been spelled out in the way that Havana once declared its revolutionary aims in Latin America.

Ten years ago, Cuba was alone in Latin America. "Cuba esta sola" Mr. Castro declared to emotional crowds in a speech at Santiago on July 26, 1967, and the country's revolutionary fortunes slid a notch lower a matter of weeks afterwards when Che Guevara was killed in Bolivia.

Western observers at the time called the revolutionary leaders death a serious political setback for the Castros.

Less than ten years later, Cuba's "operation Carlota" in Angola avenged Che.

And what Guevara failed to do in Latin America, operation Carlota set out to do in Africa. By sending thousands of troops to Angola at the request of President Agostinho Neto, Cuba has already ensured that Africa will never be the same again.

"Shock waves from Angola are being felt all over the continent," one Western observer commented.

But it was in fact Guevara who laid the foundations of Cuba's involvement in Africa. It was he who, at the "tricontinental" conference of January 1968, launched the Organisation for the Solidarity of Asian, African and Latin American peoples (OSPAL). A year before that Che was in the Congo (now Zaïre) where he led guerrillas fighting for

Gaston Soumialot's Congo National Revolutionary Council against Moïse Tshombe.

Three months after his arrival in July, Che was joined by a 200-strong Cuban contingent. He left the Congo in December that year. Early in 1966 Cubans were in Brazzaville training guerrillas fighting for Amilcar Cabral, then leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC).

A Cuban force subsequently slipped into Angola through Zaïre to fight alongside Agostinho Neto's MPLA against the Portuguese.

Cuba's African vocation however goes back even further than the Congo and Angola. In 1961, before Cuba had announced its socialist commitment, the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) was getting Cuban aid. In October 1963 Cubans fought alongside

Algerians against Morocco. "We are not just a Latin American country," Mr. Castro once said.

Its longstanding commitment to African causes has today earned Cuba a ready audience in southern Africa where progressive countries and liberation movements are looking for its direction as they move closer to a head-on military confrontation with white-rule Rhodesia and South Africa.

Mr. Castro has also won friends in Africa's tense hot of Africa where Ethiopia and Somalia, at odds with one another, both received visits from the Cuban leader last month.

Parallel with this long process of building friendships in Africa, Cuba's diplomacy has worked year by year to harmonise as one common revolutionary front the anti-imperialist forces in Africa and its own and Moscow's aims.

Rationing and scarcities make life difficult in Vietnam

HANOI, April 7 (AFP). — Life in Vietnam has been difficult, especially in the past few months.

Many basic goods, rationed in state stores, have disappeared from the free market, foreign observers here noted.

Their observations were corroborated today by an editorial in the official party paper Nhan Dan.

"The recently completed first trimester was a great trial for the people in the accomplishment of the 1977 plan," the paper said.

The editorial recalled that many crops were destroyed in the north by a prolonged cold wave. In the south, while some areas were hit by a severe drought, there was a shortage of seed, and insects and rats often got at the grain.

"Food production is the number one work front," the paper said, but did not mention that the Chinese and Soviet sources of grain were drying up.

Vietnam's two big allies have changed their wartime aid policy back to a market economy. Vietnam now needs about one million tons of grain (mostly rice, according to some international organisations. This figure does not include the 400,000 dollar cargo of rice which the United States has authorised for shipment to Vietnam.

In January, the Vice-Premier in charge of economy Mr. Le Thanh Nghi, told the National Assembly in Hanoi that "all the country's efforts should be centred on agricultural development". He pointed out that in 1977 the grain harvest (of rice, corn, potatoes, manioc and starchy tubers) would have to reach 16 million tons, compared with 13.7 in 1976.

If that progression were kept up for three or four years, Vietnam could solve its food problems and reach 21 million tons by 1980, which would

mean a monthly per capita quota of 30 kilos of staple food.

That is the figure advised by nutritionists. As fixed by the Vietnamese authorities that figure oscillates between 15 and 20 kilos according to age and profession. In addition, a monthly protein (meat and oil) allowance of 30 grams to two kilos is granted where there is enough to go around.

The monthly ration of concentrated milk made in Vietnam is set at four cans per baby. The fabric quota is 1 theory, three metres (yard) per adult per year.

The Nah Nhan Dan editorialist echoed the sentiments of several political leaders in the past who criticised absentism, dishonesty, influence peddling or organisational defects in the bureaucracy.

The commentary said that problems faced by the Vietnamese national economy were not all inherent in a post war situation, and "it should be possible to eliminate several of them if there were better administration".

One of several solutions advocated by the author was the recuperation of old materials, which were often left in the courtyard of a cooperative. Other methods include reducing the loss of raw material, raising the scrap, and making better use of rolling-stock, big user of fuel and which now often runs empty.

The situation however is not entirely bleak: 95 per cent of the "winter-spring" cultivation area in the north has been planned. In the south workers have sown 80,000 hectares more than last year.

The army has taken a hand in civil work and in some areas like electricity, cement, a coal mining, the goals of the trimestrial plan have already been overfulfilled.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

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10:00 Quran	18:00 Big Valley
10:10 Cartoons	20:00 News in Arabic
10:15 Arabic series	21:30 Religious programme
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Japan goes on sale in Amman

By Lina Gress

With the song of "The Traditional Feast of the Little Japanese Girls", Her Highness Princess Sarvath was welcomed to inaugurate a bazaar of Japanese arts and crafts held Thursday at the residence of the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

The revenue from sales goes to the Soldier's Family Welfare Association, which looks after stricken families of Jordanian soldiers killed in action while fighting the enemy.

Japanese cloth and kimono material on sale, all offered by the Japanese Embassy, appealed to feminine taste and quality and made women contribute generously.

However, the bazaar was attended by an equal number of men and women -- altogether constituting what we can call a large crowd, which was treated lavishly with Japanese and exotic sweets.



Little Japanese girls welcome Princess Sarvath with a song.



Princess Sarvath has a choice to make.



Not for sale -- But !! Japanese mystic symbols have to make an appearance.

SOCIAL SECURITY DRAFT COMES UNDER DISCUSSION

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Labour Ahmad Al-Jumaili presided at his office today during which he discussed a draft for a radically new social security law prepared by Dr.

Muhibeddin Mohammad Sa'd, an expert on social security delegated to do so by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

An explanatory memo and the recommendations of the International Labour Organisation were also circulated for study and discussion by the participants, who could later put forward their recommendations and opinions. These would be submitted for study to a ministerial committee and then for approval by the Cabinet.

The meeting was attended by the presidents of the Press, Bar and Medical Associations; the secretary general of the General Union of Workers Associations; members of the union's board; the director of Amman Chamber of Industry; and a number of other officials.

The next meeting, to be held next Thursday, will be attended by a number of ministers, who will discuss the recommendations and opinions related to the draft scheme.

ARAB ENGINEERS UNION APPROVES 1977/78 BUDGET

AMMAN (JNA). — The Higher Council of the Arab Engineers Union Thursday resumed its meetings during which it discussed the final accounts of 1976 and approved the union's budget for the first half of 1977 and a \$100,000 budget for 1977/1978.

The council also discussed the reports and recommendations presented by its permanent committees on engineering teaching, practising the profession, consultant offices and information, in addition to a report presented by the Damascus local committee on engineers working in the field of reinforced concrete.

The participants also reviewed reports submitted by seminars on consulting engineering and mineral wealth; reports from Euro-Arab experts on consultative services; a housing seminar to start in Amman Saturday; an engineering teaching seminar in Alexandria in June; and a technology transfer seminar in Baghdad in October.

The Higher Council will hold its final session Friday morning.

Health minister urges child vaccination

AMMAN (JNA). — Acting Minister of Health Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh Tuesday called on all parents, citizens and pertinent institutions to help protect Jordanian children by vaccinating them in their childhood against widespread diseases.

BASMA TAKES OVER ALYA'S SOCIAL WORK

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein sent a letter to Princess Basma Thursday putting her in charge of continuing all the projects started by the late Queen Alya in the field of social and educational services. His Majesty told Princess Basma in his letter that he has entrusted her with this duty because he has always known about her readiness to work and dedication for her country.

FANCY SPENDING EASTER SUNDAY IN JARASH?

AMMAN (J.T.). — Easter Sunday is going to be celebrated in a special way this year. For those able to get up nice and early, an Easter sunrise service will be held in Jarash Theatre at 6:00 a.m.



The Amman International Church has organized such an event since 1973, and it's invariably been a great success with up to 350 people attending.

Singing, music and scripture reading will fill the hour-long service. An informal picnic will also take place.

A collection will be taken to benefit Swinson's Orphanage in the Lebanese town of Mounsuraya.

For those in need of transport -- or more information -- contact Paul Kok at 42466, or the American Embassy at 44371 ext. 280. And we hope you enjoy it!

Development with a human face emerges from population seminar

THE seminar on population, employment and development ended its four-day meeting here Thursday. What came out was a gigantic appeal for a new look at the basic aims of economic development. The delegates threw out the old economic approach whereby economic growth is measured in terms of gross domestic product. Growth with a human face became the new rallying cry -- with particular emphasis on the role of women and the provision of adequate training facilities for this expanding sector of the labour force.

By Lina Gress

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.). — The seminar stressed the importance of human resources and the necessity of establishing specialised regional training centres to train the labour force that will participate in the implementation of development projects in the region. Dr. Henry Azzam, International Labour Organisation (ILO) representative at the seminar, told the Jordan Times.

He added that the seminar emphasised greater participation by Arab women in the labour force and the necessity of providing more education and training, as well as more job opportunities for women.

Research and studies related to the application of technology and its adaptation to the requirements of the labour force in the region were given priority.

Summarising the areas stressed by the seminar, Dr. Azzam explained that most economic models have treated population as something determined outside the economic system, since population was assumed to grow at an exogenous rate independent of the overall growth of the economy.

This assumption is now considered to be naive and inadequate and is losing ground.

NEW STRATEGY

"We are calling for a new strategy of development that stresses a coalition of development objectives to replace that of gross domestic product (GDP)," Dr. Azzam affirmed.

This coalition includes: the attainment of basic needs; nutrition; housing; education and health; the provision of employment opportunities for a continuously growing labour force; and the fair distribution of income by which the lowest four per cent of the population would be given the opportunity to work and improve their standard of living.

To attain these objectives Dr. Azzam maintained: "We are calling for a new planning approach, a comprehensive approach which would take into

consideration the economic sub-system, the labour market as well as the demographic sub-system."

What is perhaps more important are the interrelations between one system and another -- and each variable -- with the overall system.

Dr. Azzam explained that such a comprehensive approach is needed because there are clear interrelations and many relevant demographic-economic interactions.

For example, an increase in population -- a demographic variable -- would lead to an increase in the labour force. On the other hand, a decrease in fertility -- another demographic variable -- would lead in the short-run to an increase in female labour participation, whereas in the long-run the labour force as a whole would decrease in size. This also affects employment and wages, which in turn affect consumption, production and prices.

This simple example points to the need for treating the system in all its aspects -- whether concerning the economy, demography or the labour market.

WOMEN INCREASE ROLE

A survey on "Conditions of Working Women in Jordan", presented by the Faculty of Economics and Commerce at the University of Jordan, brought to light that working conditions for women have improved tremendously in the last decade.

The majority of women in the labour force are young, single and have a relatively low level of education.

They are not apprehensive about work and may think their work is a challenge to be overcome in itself. The majority feel that they are treated fairly and paid the same as men.

However, married women with children face problems of child and home care, long working hours and difficult transportation.

The prejudices against single women or wives working have faded in Jordan.

On the whole, the attitude of working women, as well as

those around them is rather positive and tolerant.

The seminar participants raised the point that government agencies should provide day care centres and improved working conditions for married women so that the family structure does not break down.

RAPID TRANSFORMATION

Another paper presented by the Iraqi delegate dealt with the "Levels and Patterns of Labour Participation in the Countries of the Region", namely Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Turkey and Iran.

The study found that the countries of the Middle East are experiencing a rapid socio-economic transformation that will affect their labour force participation rate for both sexes.

These countries will experience a decline in male labour participation for the younger age groups and an increase in female participation. This is mainly due to the increase in the level of education of women.

The discussion at the seminar, Dr. Azzam reported, concentrated on the fact that although female participation in Jordan is reported to be low, it is believed that this is not the case in rural areas, where women refuse to say they are actually working.

In conclusion, Dr. Azzam stressed that "increasing attention to the multi-dimensional nature of economic and social development and the necessity of formulating a new development strategy" should be the desired goal.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	571.0	577.0
U.S. dollar	331.0	333.0
German mark	139.1	139.5
French franc	66.8	67.0
Swiss franc	130.9	131.3
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.4	37.6
Saudi riyal	93.6	93.8
Lebanese pound	109.4	109.6
Syrian pound	81.8	82.0
Iraqi dinar	942.0	950.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,150.0	1,155.0
Libyan dinar	800.0	820.0
Egyptian pound	470.0	471.0
UAE dirham	85.2	85.5

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Marine science station studies the Gulf of Aqaba's flora and fauna for development of fisheries

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

One person's playground is another person's office... and the sprawling waters of the Gulf of Aqaba are no exception. Where tourists flock to pass the better parts of entire weeks soaking up the sun and splashing in the cool waters, staff members of Jordan's marine science station spend their days on, in and around the waters of the Gulf of Aqaba systematically carrying out research to come up with a clear picture of the life systems and physical characteristics of the gulf.

Research Director Dr. Neil Hulings, an American who has come to Jordan after marine science work in Lebanon, Tunisia and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., says the aim of the work being done is "to get a basic understanding of the gulf's natural environment, because up to now very little has been known about the basic dynamics of the Gulf of Aqaba."

The general purpose of the work is two-fold: To get a definitive picture of the plant and animal communities in the gulf, to determine how these can be rationally exploited within the aims of Jordan's economic development plans (notably for a fisheries industry), and to be able to provide critical information on what effects the various develop-

involves determining the annual cycles of the production of phosphates, nitrates and nitrites by organisms within the water, in order subsequently to be able to see if the industrial or touristic schemes popping up along the coastal areas are adversely affecting these natural food cycles. One of the studies being carried out is to determine the effects of the phosphate dust that is always being blown out onto the water from the phosphate loading berths at the port.

-- Physical properties, which basically involves determining the movements of the water, including the tides, wind-induced currents and permanent currents.

-- Primary productivity, which centres around the photosynthesis activities of microscopic algae, that in turn provide the bottom level upon which the gulf's food chains are built.

One of the aims of the marine science station's work is to determine the capacity of the gulf to produce fish on a commercially viable basis. The fisheries industry there is now at a very low level of development.

Dr. Hulings estimates there are about 100 species of commercially important fish in the gulf, though no more than 15 of these are preferred by consumers today.



Working from make-shift headquarters, the station has already graduated one MSc student.

cies of fish instead of only the ten per cent which are preferred at present.

Studies are also being carried out to determine the feasibility of an aquaculture or artificial fisheries industry where fish are produced in tanks.

The station is continually providing information to the government and private companies involved with development projects in Aqaba, particularly to alert them to the impact their projects may have on the marine life.

A further aim of the station is to provide educational material to students on all levels.

assistants and technical staff. The station is now under the aegis of the University of Jordan's Sciences Faculty, but discussions are underway to make it an interuniversity programme jointly financed by Yarmouk and Jordan Universities.

When it operates at its permanent site, the marine science station will run regular semester courses for the two universities, as well as courses on a regional level under the aegis of the Arab League programme for the Red Sea. An initial course on scientific diving is scheduled for 1978, and others will follow on various aspects of marine sciences.

The station has been working for the past three years from its temporary headquarters, and its first M.Sc. graduate with a specialisation in marine biology will be followed soon by two more. This year will also see the first Jordanian student, Ahmed Abu Hilal, go to Liverpool University for Ph.D. studies in chemical oceanography.

The station's staff today includes, along with Dr. Hulings, two M.Sc. researchers, two technicians and a diver-photographer who is building up a photographic record of the gulf's marine life that will be used for educational, scientific and publication purposes. The colour photos include underwater, aerial and ground-level shots.

The actual fieldwork undertaken daily includes regular measurements of currents and winds; chemical measurements for water temperature, salinity, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, pH, and penetration of light; studies of the tiny phytoplankton plant that serves as a food source for other animals and plants in the water; and measurement of sea-grasses and chlorophyll concentrations.

Dr. Hulings points out that the coral reef community is the most complex of all marine communities, the most productive, and the most sensitive to pollution. It is also the dominant community in the Gulf of Aqaba, and therefore has to be studied regularly and over a long period of time to see what adverse effects it suffers from various elements that are injected into the gulf, such as oil, landfills, sewage, heat or industrial wastes.

A study on the effects of the continual discharge into the water of phosphate rock dust from the port has shown so far that the dust has a very localised effect, though the study has two more phases to go to determine what sediments are found in the area where the phosphate dust falls and what

kinds of bacterial reactions occur there.

Dr. Hulings explains that, in man and other animals, there is a bio-chemical phenomenon whereby excessive phosphate deposits prevent the deposition of calcium. The beautiful coral skeletons, that are one of the tourist attractions of the Gulf of Aqaba, are made of calcium carbonate, and they could be adversely affected by the phosphate dust, particularly when phosphate exports reach the projected eight million-ton mark from today's two million tons.

Another project underway is an intensive survey of the very northern edge of the gulf, just off the shoreline. There are tentative plans to create an artificial coral reef there to be used to follow the natural evolution of a reef from its very beginning, and also to determine the spinoffs of food and energy that a growing reef provides for other animals.

Along with these kinds of local research projects, the marine science station is also

planning to undertake joint programmes to investigate phosphate pollution in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea (with Egypt) and to monitor oil pollution of the two water bodies (with Saudi Arabia). The Aqaba station will be hooked into a network of other such research and educational centres all around the Red Sea.

The station has received a \$50,000 grant from the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to buy equipment, and a smaller grant, also to buy equipment, from the United Nations Development Programme via UNESCO and the sciences graduate studies project at the University of Jordan. Annual funding comes from the university, and King Hussein gave the station an initial JD 9,000 to buy equipment, as well as the permanent use of a 21-foot research vessel.

"It's like a giant jigsaw puzzle," Dr. Hulings says of the Gulf of Aqaba from his perspective as a man trying to chart and understand the dynam-



Dr. Hulings puts his finger on a complex underwater technical problem he discusses with one of his staff members, Ahmed Abu Hilal. (Photos by Rami G. Khouri).

mics of the water body. "There are so many inter-related factors and so many individual components that it requires continual follow-up to all the research programmes we start. We find that one pollutant may have a certain effect on life in the water, but two pollutants together may have a different

effect. We have to monitor the gulf on a day-to-day basis to get the basic data that we can then use to chart the long-term life and evolution of the area. Once we have this data, then we can make recommendations about what effects all the development projects at Aqaba are having on the marine life."

English scholars probe the "literary find of the century"

When officials at a London bank opened a chest which had remained untouched in its vaults for 156 years they little knew that the contents would be called "a literary Pompeii" and that they would bring together two outstanding figures, Lord Byron and Napoleon Bonaparte.

LONDON, (D.T.) — With good reason, the recent discovery in the vault of a London bank of a hoard of early 19th century documents, including manuscripts of works by the famous English poets Byron and Shelley, has been described as "the literary find of the century."

Seldom has there emerged anything quite as exciting and unexpected as the chest of documents which came to light in the principal West End offices of Barclays Bank. The trunk has recently been handed over to the national libraries organisation, the British Library, on indefinite loan.

Soon On Display

It is a mark of the exceptional quality and immensely intriguing nature of the finds that a number of them were almost immediately put on show by the library -- in the same room in the British Museum as the Magna Carta.

According to unofficial estimates, the chest and its contents are worth at least £500,000. As for the literary implications, they are incalculable.

Behind the find stands the shadowy figure of one Scrope Berdmore Davies (1782-1852), scholar, dandy, wit, womaniser, sportsman, and close friend of Lord Byron. He was also, it seems, an ordained clergyman.

First and foremost, however, he was something of a compulsive gambler. By a twist of fate it is largely due to his reckless gambling activities that the chest has come down to us in its "time capsule" form.

It seems that Scrope left England in a hurry in 1820 to escape gambling debts. But before his departure he stuffed his papers chaotically into the sudden leather chest and deposited it with his bankers, Morland, Ransom and Company, a private firm that was merged with some 20 others to form the principal group, Barclays Bank, at the end of the 19th century.

Publisher Consulted

For 156 years the chest bearing the brass nameplate of Scrope Davies remained undisturbed and unopened. Then, late last year, bank officials began to look at the mass of old boxes and papers which had been deposited in the private vault.

In doing so they conformed with the principle that only boxes deposited and unopened for over 100 years, and in which no company or corporate organisation had rights, could be unsealed. After some investigation the bank consulted the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, which advised it to approach the old established firm of publishers, John Murray.

The firm, which was Byron's publisher, suggested the bank should approach two distant descendants of Scrope Davies. Mr. Martin Davies, a Bristol solicitor, and Mr. Bevis Miller, a London author and journalist. They are descendants of Scrope's brothers, but they have both said that they do not intend to claim ownership.

Happily, the chest has thus passed -- albeit on indefinite loan -- into the hands of eager experts at the British Library.

A Fascinating Character

The contents of the trunk provide an exciting first hand

Library, points to the bizarre nature of Davies. On one journey to Scotland he and a friend of a similar disposition bet on virtually any activity, including a simple childish game of throwing stones. It was just this kind of frivolity that the poet Shelley found so distasteful in Byron's dandy friends, and indeed in Byron himself.

The greatest prize among the manuscripts in the chest is the third canto of "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage", written in Byron's own hand in a red leather bound notebook. This was entrusted to Scrope by Byron for delivery to his publisher. It never arrived.

Scholars are now inclined to believe that Davies deliberately "lost" the manuscripts. Thus, by a stroke of irony, Byron's loss 150 years ago is our gain.

Unpublished Poems

The chest also contained other important documents: An early manuscript of Shelley's "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty" and an early version of his poem "Mont Blanc", as well as two of his unpublished poems. Of particular significance is the copy of Byron's "The Prisoner of Chillon" in the immaculate handwriting of the poet's mistress, Claire Clairmont. It contains alterations and additions in Byron's own hand.

The many letters which were also in the trunk include love letters and a bundle of correspondence from Lady Frances Webster -- one of Byron's former mistresses -- recording a passionate affair between her and Davies.

A number of documents relate to Napoleon's exile in St. Helena, and to British naval

life in the early 19th century. These came from Scrope's youngest brother, Samuel Decimus Davies, one of the sailors who accompanied Napoleon to the island in HMS Northumberland in 1815. The papers from this source include a watercolour sketch of the emperor leaning against a ship's gun.

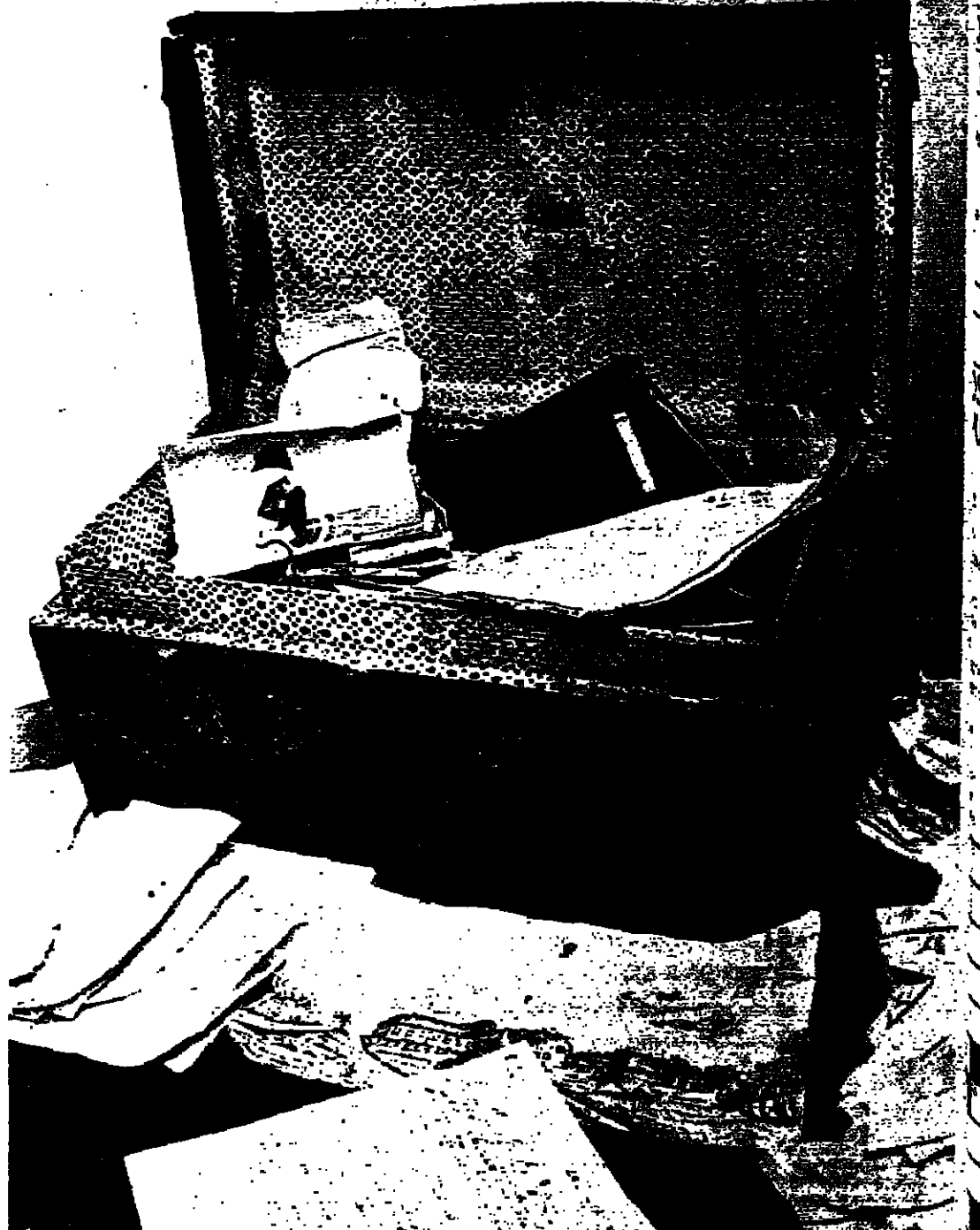
The seaman recorded that Napoleon made the voyage in "good spirits", spending much of his time playing chess. Samuel Decimus also drew sketches and a plan of Longwood, St. Helena, showing the emperor's quarters there in detail.

A "Literary Pompeii"

It is a splendid coincidence that Scrope Davies' trunk brings together relics of two outstanding historical figures of the time, Byron and Napoleon. Experts at the British Library are now busily engaged on a study of the mass of material, but it will be some time before all its academic ramifications are fully assessed.

The delight of the scholars involved is evident. According to one, the trunk is a veritable "literary Pompeii". Just as the volcanic ash preserved for posterity the remains of the ancient Roman city, so Scrope Davies' leather chest has preserved an absorbing picture of Regency England.

Such discoveries are inclined to make one reflect on the broad, challenging questions of time, history and man's place in them. For all his wild behaviour, Scrope Davies did ponder upon such issues. "If there is a present," he wrote "it is a point upon which we cannot stand."



The Scrope Davies chest and its contents whose discovery in the vault of a London bank caused so much excitement in the literary world.



The octagonal-shaped buildings of the marine science station under construction along Aqaba's southern coastal strip.

ment projects around the gulf (such as the fertiliser plant, power station, port expansion, etc.) may have on the natural life systems within the waters.

The approach to studying the gulf is multi-disciplinary. Dr. Hulings explains, meaning, it covers the biological, chemical, physical and geological aspects of the water body. He lists three distinct areas of research:

-- Nutrient chemistry, which

The station's work will allow it and others to determine the biological cycles of the commercially important species, evaluate present fishing techniques and compile statistics on catches, assess different processing methods to prepare the fish for commercial consumption, and finally, to help initiate a process of "consumer education" so that a fisheries industry can exploit the full potential of the available spe-

particularly booklets on different aspects of the gulf's marine life. Photos and movies are also being compiled and will be made available for educational and research purposes.

The station has been operating since June 1974 from a make-shift headquarters tucked in among Aqaba's residential area along the northern tip of the gulf. The new permanent facilities are under construction about 6 kms. south of the city, along the coastal strip that was acquired from Saudi Arabia and which will also eventually be the site of industrial, touristic and residential complexes.

The complex of octagonal-shaped buildings, when it is ready for occupation perhaps by the end of this year, will include seven research labs, an aquarium-museum complex, a lecture hall, library and seminar rooms, a diving centre, photo darkroom facilities, an equipment workshop, kitchen and dining areas and residential facilities to house up to 36 resident students and permanent staff members.

The ultimate goal is to have eight resident Ph.D. staffers there with up to 15 research

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Easter and invites you for
a visit to romp with its
Easter Bunny among our
chocolate Easter Eggs.

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INVITATION FOR TENDERS

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Qualified contractors who desire to take part in this tender can obtain one complete set of tender documents at a price of one hundred Jordanian Dinars from the ministry of public works -- Amman, Jordan. This sum will not be refunded to the tenderers.

Tender documents shall be delivered to the ministry of public works, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Amman not later than 10 a.m. local time on May 16, 1977.

Chief of Tenders Committee
of the Ministry of Public Works
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مركز الامارات

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR BEARIF
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with South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10542
♥ A J 10 2
♦ K J 4 2
♣ 6

EAST
♠ 7 3
♥ K Q 9 5 4 3
♦ 8
♣ A Q 9 6 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 8
♥ 10 7
♦ K Q 10 4
♣ 10 4

Bidding:
North East South West
1 1 2 2
Pass Pass Pass Pass
Ending lead: Eight of 10.

East went to elaborate
tricks to protect a possible
jack in his partner's hand,
was well rewarded in the

South's bid of two spades
is an intermediate jump
re-ask—it showed the

trick in each minor suit, and
West could not be expected
to provide more than one
trick—not enough to defeat

the contract. If the defense
was to prevail, South would
have to hold the outstanding
diamond.

Having reached this con-
clusion, it would seem that
East should continue with
the ace of diamonds and

another. However, that
would allow declarer to make
the contract. He would ruff

high, draw trumps and dis-
card his heart loser on the
king of diamonds.

East came up with a
beautiful counter. At the
second trick he returned the
three of diamonds! West

ruffed and, reading his part-
ner's card as a suit prefer-
ence signal, shifted to a
club. East won the ace and

led another low diamond, re-
taining the ace over the king.
Though declarer ruffed high
and drew trumps, he was

stranded with an unavoid-
able heart loser. Thanks to
brilliant defense, the con-
tract went one down.

East took stock before
continuing the defense. If

West led his singleton dia-
mond, declarer played low
diamond, and East won the

queen. In an effort to
keep the defenders think-
ing he held only one dia-
mond, declarer dropped the

ace on this trick.
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continuing the defense. If

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mond, declarer dropped the

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



**LAND IMPROVEMENT PRO-
GRAMME** -- A vast program-
me for carrying out work on
land improvement has been taken
as one of the measures to
increase the agricultural pro-
duction.

A big army of specialists ar-
med with latest highly produc-
tive equipment are working in
this field.

Irrigation systems and stora-
ge lakes have been built or are
under construction in regions
lacking water -- found in the
Middle Asian republics, in the
southern European part of US-
SR and in the Volga regions
and drainage works are taking
place on the marsh-riden lands
in Byelorussia, the Baltic Repu-
blics.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Not a good time for you to be overly direct with anyone in stating views of a critical nature. Not a good time to go ahead with plans you have in mind. Wait for another day.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Before you look into a new venture be sure you complete whatever work you have already started. Steer clear of one whose background is different from your own.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Although you do not enjoy doing it, you still have to take care of pressing responsibilities. Study new and more improved systems for the days ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Handle problems with associates wisely and have an improved relationship with them. Outsiders can be most helpful now. Be of real assistance where some public matter is concerned.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A co-worker makes it possible for you to be more sure of yourself. Be wiser to the ways of others.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Put some talent you have to work and make big inroads into greater success for the future. Find out what mate expects of you and try to please more. Avoid one who is jealous of you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A family tie is not feeling up to par so be more thoughtful and kind with this person. Don't criticize. Get busy at routines early and forget a new venture.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Handle problems early and get down to routine matters. Be careful of one who is a hypocrite.

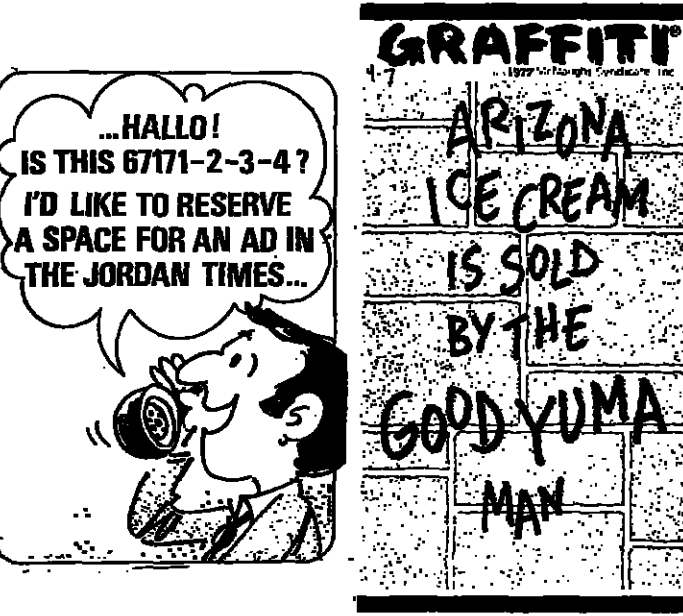
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Do whatever will make your financial status more enviable and feel safer, happier. Try to cut down on expenses and be sure to pay whatever bills are essential.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are going through a trying time right now, but later all works to your benefit and you feel happier, more optimistic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Listen to what a good adviser has to suggest. A good time to handle matters of a confidential nature, also.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) After lunch is best time to get into whatever will increase personal happiness. Take no chances where reputation is concerned.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make sure you are poised in handling any career or business affairs and gain backing from bigwigs. A credit matter needs your immediate attention.



LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



JUMBLE.

scramble these four Jumbles,
letter to each square, to form
ordinary words.

HOTUM
[Grid of letters]

NIGTY
[Grid of letters]

ATREA
[Grid of letters]

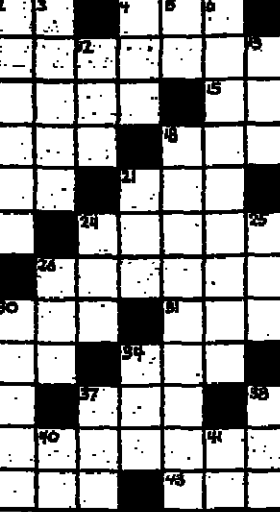
ARQUEV
[Grid of letters]

Print answer here: [Grid of circles]

Jumbles: PATIO RODEO FLORID GENTLE
Answer: What those grayhounds were at the end of the race—DOG-TIRED

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

24. Sum invested
25. Circumspect
26. Near
27. Course
28. Dilemma
29. On tree
30. Bit
31. Island
32. Pointless
33. Advanced college course
34. Edgar Allan
35. Indefinite
36. Secret listener
37. Obstacle
38. Chew
39. Curlicue



40. Old Dominion state
41. Radium symbol

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

DR. ELLIOT : ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
Husband has doubts that his wife will repulse him if the operation to restore her sight succeeds.

KONAK: KISSIT ALL GOODEYE
By mistake, a cop wounds a girl while chasing a thief. He tries to help her as he feels guilty.

BIG VALLEY : THE EMPEROR OF RICE
One of the neighbouring ranchers tries to prevent Jarrod from selling rice to Chinese.

GEORGE AND MILDRED : THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED
Having taken the dog for a walk and lost it, George buys a similar one to avoid his wife's anger.

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CHINESE RESTAURANT

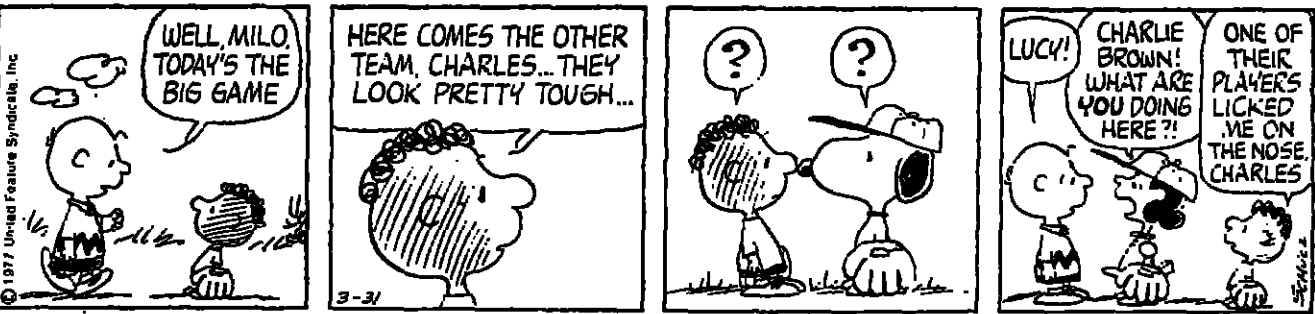
First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Abiyah School or CMS. Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service - order by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT

First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

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PEANUTS



THE FLINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

North-south dialogue expected to yield successful results

PARIS, April 7 (AFP). — Mr. Allan Macaehen, Canadian co-chairman of the 27-nation Paris Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC), last night said he felt "more positive" about prospects for a successful outcome to the "north-south dialogue".

Speaking after a separate meeting of chief delegates of the eight industrial powers taking part in the parity, he said: "We have in our group a determination to achieve results".

He said members of the group "put quite a number of ideas on the table, indicating considerable movement" in the positions of various governments since the end of last year. Without elaborating on the proposals, he said they covered such areas as energy, commodities, the transfer of resources to poor countries, and the problem of resources for development.

"New ideas" had been put forward in these areas, the former Canadian External Affairs Secretary said.

The CIEC, which has brought together eight industrial powers and 18 oil producers and other developing countries since December 1975 in an effort to hammer out a fairer economic relationship between rich and poor nations, has been stalled since last November.

The reason mainly was lack of progress in year-long expert-level talks on energy, raw materials, development and related financial issues, as well as the change of administration in the United States.

The "group of 19" agreed last December to put off the final ministerial session of the conference until the end of next May in the hope that President Jimmy Carter's new administration would be more forthcoming than its predecessor.

Mr. Macaehen implicitly

confirmed that new proposals had been put forward by the U.S. delegation as well as by the European Economic Community, which agreed on the outline of a common position for the final phase of the talks at a summit meeting in Rome at the end of last month.

He said participants in yesterday's meeting had shown "an extremely positive" attitude. But the "eight" as a group had still to agree on a common position, he said. There were still "differences of opinion or emphasis".

Asked whether there had been any marked shift in the U.S. stand, he replied: "I think that generally speaking the attitude (of the 'eight') is more positive, and certainly the attitude of the (European) community and of the United States".

Asked to comment on the failure of month-long talks in Geneva on the creation of a "common fund" to finance buffer stocks within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), he said there

would "certainly" be further discussion of this matter in the CIEC.

"I believe the common fund is still a live issue," he said. Replying to questions, Mr. Macaehen said he believed there was "a general desire to continue the dialogue on energy" after the end of the CIEC, which none of the participants would like to extend beyond early next June. A continued energy dialogue would be "desirable from the point of view of international economic cooperation." But it was "not clear" yet what would happen in this field.

The Canadian co-chairman said the "group of eight" will meet again on April 25 to "refine" its position, ahead of a series of meetings with the developing countries up to the start of the ministerial conference on May 31.

He said he felt the prospect was that "this conference can succeed." However, he added, "if it is to succeed there will have to be movement on both sides." — Among the "19" as well as among the "eight."

U.S. crude oil, gas reserves decline

WASHINGTON, April 7 (R). — Known reserves of both crude oil and natural gas in the United States declined in 1976, according to reports today from the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the American Gas Association (AGA).

The API said proven reserves of crude oil fell 1.7 billion barrels in 1976 to 30.9 billion barrels, compared with a 1.6 billion barrel decline in 1975.

Proven reserves of natural gas fell five per cent to 216,000 billion cubic feet at the end of 1976, compared with 228,200 billion cubic feet in 1975, according to the AGA.

Both associations defined

proven reserves as those which are known and can be recovered economically.

The reports emphasised the U.S. energy problem, on which President Carter will make a policy statement on April 21.

The API said almost 1.1 billion barrels of crude oil were added to proven reserves in 1976 through the discovery of new fields, the extension and developments of known reservoirs and revision of earlier estimates.

The API said it might be possible to produce an additional 4.3 billion barrels of oil through improved recovery techniques.

IMF sells gold to raise money for fund

WASHINGTON, April 7 (R). — The International Monetary Fund yesterday raised \$57 million in the eighth of its series of gold auctions to finance a special trust fund for the world's poorest countries.

Since the auctions began in June last year, the IMF has raised \$506 million for the trust, established to make loans on easy terms to about 60 of the least developed nations.

The IMF, which plans to dispose of 25 million ounces of gold over a four-year period, sold 524,800 ounces yesterday at an average price of \$149.18 an ounce.

It had planned to sell 525,000 ounces. To have sold the full amount, it would have had to accept a minimum bid for 1,200 ounces and this would have pushed the total sale beyond the 525,000-ounce mark.

The next auction is scheduled for May 4.

Egypt, Britain sign contract to rebuild Suez Canal cities

CAIRO, April 7 (R). — Britain and Egypt today signed a \$2 million agreement to conduct studies for the reconstruction of three war shattered Suez Canal cities, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

The agreement was signed by the British Ambassador to Cairo M. Willie Morris and Egypt's Minister of Housing, Hassan Mohammad Hussain the agency said.

Under the agreement Britain and Egypt will each spend \$1 million on the studies, which will be conducted by British firms.

The three cities, Suez, Ismailia and Port Said, were badly damaged during the two wars with Israel 1967 and 1973.

W. German chief public prosecutor assassinated

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, April 7 (R). — West German Chief Public Prosecutor Siegfried Buback, a key figure in the fight against the country's urban guerrilla movement, was killed in a machine-gun attack here today.

Two men on a motorcycle opened fire on a car carrying the 57-year-old lawyer, who led the investigation into crimes alleged to have been committed by members of the Baader-Meinhof group and other political extremists, justice officials said.

Herr Buback's chauffeur was also killed and a bodyguard was taken to hospital after the attack, which took place near the prosecutor's office.

A group calling itself the "Ulrich Meinhof Action Group" claimed responsibility for the slaying later today in telephone calls to the West German DPA press agency.

Police began a hunt for the attackers, one of whom was reported to have been wearing a yellow crash helmet. West German Interior Minister Werner Mainhof instructed the Federal Criminal Office in Wiesbaden to take over the case.

In a first reaction the West German in Bonn condemned the "cowardly murder" while Herr Willy Brandt, chairman of the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD) termed it an attack against the democratic state.

He said the "increase of force into naked terror" was a matter of concern for every citizen and appealed for democratic of all parties to close ranks against those responsible.

Police sealed off all roads leading out of this southwestern German city where the federal high courts are sited. A close watch was being kept on the border with France, only about 40 kms away in case the attackers tried to flee the country.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, leader of the Liberal (Free Democratic) Party described the killings as "treacherous murders" and

praised Herr Buback as "an incorruptible defender of the law." He too called the assassination an attack on the free and law-abiding state of West Germany as a whole.

Police said later there were probably four assassins riding on two motor cycles. One was thought to be a woman.

Dr. Helmut Kohl, leader of the Christian Democratic Union parliamentary opposition, said the murder showed there was still a dangerous number of violent political criminals at large despite efforts to combat terrorism.

It is the second murder of a high justice official in West Germany in recent years. Several young leftwing terrorists, including two women, are under investigation in West Berlin in connection with the assassination of the city's Chief Judge Guenter von Drenkmann 2½ years ago.

Judge Drenkmann was shot in front of his wife by masked gunmen who burst into his apartment. In anonymous letters it was later claimed that he had been killed in revenge for the death the day before of 33-year-old anarchist Holger Meins.

Mr. Meins, one of the original accused in Baader-Meinhof trial, died in prison November, 1974, after a hunger strike.

Miss Ulrike Meinhof, founder of the group, was found hanged in her cell May last year, one year after the trial started.

The remaining accused Mr. Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Mr. J. Carl Raspe -- began a hunger strike last week.

The group was charged with a series of bomb attacks, murders and bank robberies, conducted as part of an anti-capitalist campaign in the early 1970s.

B.A. SHOP STEWARDS REFUSE TO END STRIKE

LONDON, April 7 (R). — Shop stewards today rejected a formula to end the strike by ground engineers at London's Heathrow Airport which has paralysed British Airways domestic and European flights since Sunday.

The peace formula was worked out by officials from the Engineering Union and management of the state-run British Airways in eight hours of talks last night.

The shop stewards will advise a meeting later today of the 4,000 striking ground engineers to reject the package.

The men are almost certain to accept the recommendation, wrecking Easter holiday plans of thousands of would-be passengers.

The ground engineers want higher pay for shift work separate negotiating rights with management. Their action does not have official union backing.

Engineering union official Len Choultson said after the shop stewards meeting: "It was an almost unanimous decision. The men feel that British Airways should be able to discuss their claim and make some kind of firm offer before a return to normal working."

Mr. Choultson said the peace formula involved management assurances that it would open discussions on the engineers' claims in return for an immediate return to normal working.

British Airways was also to withdraw dismissal notices to the men following their refusal to return to normal work.

The shop stewards voted by 112 to 25 to throw out the formula, and to continue to refuse to work at night and at weekends.

British Airways has cancelled almost all its domestic and European flights from Heathrow because of the action.

The dispute has also hit some of the airline's intercontinental flights, and British Airways chief Sir Frank McFadden has said the continued refusal by the engineers to return to normal work would probably lead to a shut-down of operations.

Non-aligned countries asked to help themselves

NEW DELHI, April 7 (R). — Non-aligned countries should help themselves rather than depend on the charity and good will of richer nations, Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai said here today.

"I believe firmly that self-help must precede help from others," he said. "Even for making certain of help from heaven one has to help oneself."

Mr. Desai was speaking at the opening of a conference of foreign ministers of the 25-member coordinating bureau of non-aligned countries the first international gathering he has addressed as prime minister.

The challenge before the non-aligned is to wage battle against want through forging meaningful bonds of cooperation and collaboration among ourselves. We must persist in this path of solving our own problems rather than depend on the charity and benevolence of others," Mr. Desai said. He said his government would keep India non-aligned "in the real sense of the term."

The fragile economies of most developing countries were under greater strain than ever, he said.

The energy crisis had made the problem even more acute for countries with no oil to export.

Mr. Desai said non-aligned nations had a responsibility to address themselves to the major international political problems and said top priority was to continue efforts to pressurise the racist and minority regimes in Southern Africa to see the writing on the wall.

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WALL STREET REPORT

APOLOGY

The Jordan Times apologises to its readers for the non-appearance of the New York stock exchange report for Thursday. This was caused by abnormal conditions affecting our receiving equipment.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market Thursday was mixed with the pending long Easter holiday weekend making for a contraction in trading volume, dealers said. The quarter point minimum lending rate reduction was discounted, they added. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 1.8 at 402.3.

Short-dated government bonds fell up to 3/8 point in reaction to small selling while longer loans finished unchanged having opening up to 1/4 higher.

Equity leaders were mixed while gold shares drifted for want of interest. Canadians declined and dollar stocks showed little change.

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$148.50/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, April 7 (R). — U.S. corporations reaped profits of \$82.4 billion last year, a 29 per cent increase over 1975, according to a survey of nearly 4,000 American firms by New York's Citi Bank. But the bank said that because of inflation real earnings were below those recorded before the 1973-1975 recession. Corporate profits declined 8.5 per cent in 1975 from 1974.

WASHINGTON, April 7 (AFP). — U.S. President Jimmy Carter had talks here today with a group of 10 Japanese businessmen looking for investment possibilities in the south-east of the United States. Mr. Carter recalled that, when he was governor of Georgia, Japanese firms had made big investments in his state.

TOKYO, April 7 (R). — Japan plans to reduce its dependence on oil for energy from the present 80 per cent to 63 per cent during the next decade, Mr. Toshio Komoto, Chairman of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party's Policy Affairs Research Council said today. Mr. Komoto told a press luncheon that the government's new energy policy would be founded on increased use of nuclear power, liquefied natural gas and coal. He said generation of nuclear power in Japan should rise to at least 30 to 35 million kw by 1985, although this was far below the government's earlier goal of 49 million kw. Meanwhile the newly-elected President of the Japan Mining Association, Yoshiteru Suzuki, today called on the government to fund the stockpiling of copper and other non-ferrous metals as it already does for oil. Mr. Suzuki said that only after building such a stockpile could Japan lift its ban on copper exports without creating a domestic shortage.

DONN, April 7 (R). — World Bank President Robert McNamara met West German leaders here today to discuss how to speed up the north-south dialogue, the Paris talks between industrialised and developing states to evolve a new world economic order. Mr. McNamara also met government officials today. An official Foreign Ministry communiqué said Minister of State Klaus von Dohnanyi had assured him of Bonn's interest in working out individual agreements on raw materials in the Paris talks.

Quakes kill 36 in Iran

TEHRAN, April 7 (R). — At least 36 people were killed in earth tremors in central and southwest Iran in the past 24 hours and the Shah has ordered massive relief operations, a government spokesman said today.

The newspaper Ettelaat, however, said at least 50 people had been killed in one village in the tremors which first hit areas around Isfahan, Shiraz and the Zagros mountain range yesterday.

The Tehran University Geophysics Institute said the first tremor measured "over six" on the open-ended Richter scale.

In Sweden, the Seismological Institute at Uppsala measured the quake at 6.5 on the Richter scale.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

KUWAIT, April 7 (R). — The Kuwait weekly newspaper Al-Hadaf said today the government was planning to publish a semi-official daily newspaper. The new newspaper was expected to appear early next year.

BAHRAIN, April 7 (R). — The Bahrain state security court has sentenced a member of a banned leftist organisation to 10 years imprisonment for attempting to blow up a police station and threatening the life of a newspaper publisher, Justice Ministry officials said today. The prosecution charged that Abdul Rahman Ahmed Othman, 28, had manufactured a bomb in April 1975 and thrown it the following month at a police station in Al Muharraq, Bahrain's second largest town.

KINSHASA, April 7 (R). — The Cuban diplomats, ordered out of Zaire following the suspension of diplomatic relations, left the country today, the official Zaire news agency Azap reported today. They left via Brazzaville after crossing the River Congo by boat, it said.

5 Western ambassadors meet Vorster on Namibia

CAPE TOWN, April 7 (R). — The five Western ambassadors meeting South African Prime Minister John Vorster here today were to hand over a joint document setting out their views on an independence settlement for Namibia (Southwest Africa), diplomatic sources said.

The sources told Reuters the document was not a list of official demands from the envoys' governments, but it would make clear that the five countries were unhappy with the South African-inspired plan for a multi-racial government in Namibia.

Today's meeting between the ambassadors of the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada was due to start behind closed doors in Mr. Vorster's private office here.

U.S. Ambassador William Bowdler said today he was not prepared to discuss the meeting and diplomatic sources said there had been agreements

amongst the five men that details would be released in less sanctioned by Mr. Vorster. Diplomatic sources said this in addition to discussion of Namibia, the ambassadors would also impress on Mr. Vorster their view that urgent South Africa.

The outcome of the meeting is seen here as crucial to a resumption of the adjourned U.N. Security Council debate on South Africa, in which Western and black African countries have been unable to agree on a declaration of principles.

Sources here believed the ambassadors would be looking for signs that Mr. Vorster seriously intended changing South Africa's apartheid system.

If they were convinced the change was on the way, it moderate Western proposals for a U.N. declaration of principles would continue to be advocated at the Security Council as a counter to the tougher demands of black Africa, the sources said.

AIR FRANCE

SUMMER SCHEDULES VALID 3/4/77-31/10/77

AF 143 B 707	AF 143 B 707	AF 142 B 707	AF 142 B 707
08.45	08.45	19.30	19.30
X	X	X	X
14.00	14.00	12.30	12.30

SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE

X LUNCH OR DINNER

1...ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES FROM AMMAN ONE HOUR EARLIER UP TO 30 APRIL 77 AND FROM 1ST SEP 77

2...ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES FROM PARIS (CDG) ONE HOUR EARLIER FROM 25th SEP 77

مركز الصحافة